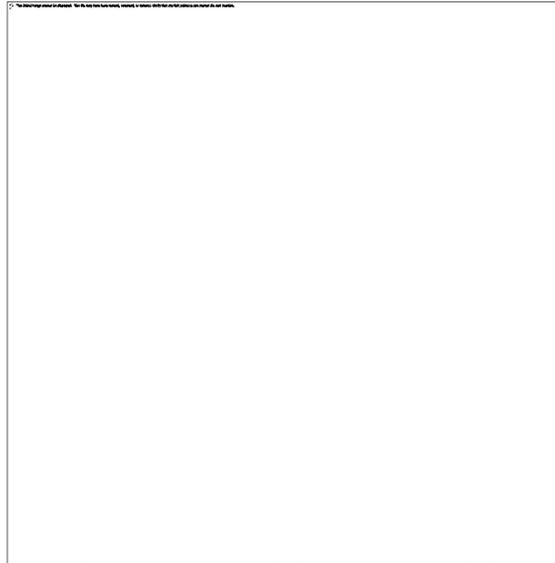


Message

From: Shoren Brown, Bristol Bay United [shoren@bristolbayunited.com]
Sent: 3/5/2014 8:33:39 PM
To: Szerlog, Michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=23a7f634594b4b58ba4a96e77c1b1aaf-Szerlog, Michael]
Subject: Bristol Bay in the News: March 5, 2014

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Bristol Bay in the News: March 5, 2014

Last week, the EPA took a major step to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska from harmful mining development by [initiating the 404\(c\) process under the Clean Water Act](#). It's a day those of us who have worked to protect Bristol Bay and its salmon resource have waited on for years – but it doesn't mean the fight is over.

The significance of the EPA's decision was summed up well by Administrator Gina McCarthy in a conference call with reporters: "This 404(c) process is not something – and I want to stress this -- that the agency does very often. But the Bristol Bay fishery is an extraordinary resource, and it's worthy of out-of-the ordinary agency actions to protect it." As she also notes, the EPA has launched 404(c) reviews 29 times in the past and followed through with final actions only 13 times.

Indeed, the threat of the proposed Pebble Mine on Bristol Bay's billion-dollar salmon fishery and Native way of life was severe enough that the EPA had no choice but to take this first step. As its own [Watershed Assessment confirmed](#), mining on the scale of the proposed Pebble Mine could destroy up to 5,350 acres of wetlands, ponds, and lakes and 94 miles of streams where Bristol Bay's salmon spawn.

The EPA's announcement received coverage from coast to coast, including in the opinion pages. The [Anchorage Daily News](#) concluded "First, let's be clear: the EPA is doing its job. Why have a Clean Water Act at all if not to protect a pristine natural watershed from potentially toxic industrial development? And let's remember that the EPA initially undertook to assess the Pebble project because many concerned Alaskans asked it to do so."

[The Seattle Times](#) editorial board said "The economic reach of the Bristol Bay fishery is extraordinary, with thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of economic impact in Washington and Oregon, all documented by independent research. EPA's review is expected to take at least a year. Mounting evidence points to a wholly appropriate outcome. Stop the mine; protect the fishery."

[Denver Post](#) outdoor columnist [Scott Willoughby](#) noted "Until fail-safe techniques are perfected, the reality remains that gems like Bristol Bay should not be mined." And the [New York Times](#) determined "The mine would gravely threaten one of the richest salmon fisheries in the world and disrupt a delicate marine environment prized by conservationists, native tribes and commercial fishing interests alike."

Members of our coalition also weighed in on the EPA's announcement.

Bristol Bay Native Corporation CEO Jason Metrokin: "Bristol Bay Native Corporation appreciates that EPA will identify

appropriate options to protect Bristol Bay from the risks Pebble poses.”

Trout Unlimited Alaska Program Director Tim Bristol: *“While we won’t know the outcome of this process for some time, it’s clear the EPA is listening to anglers, hunters and the people of Bristol Bay. I hope sportsmen and women all over America will join me in applauding the EPA for taking this bold step.”*

Katherine Carscallen, Sustainability Director for the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association: *“There are still many steps in the process before the threat of building mines like Pebble in Bristol Bay is fully put to rest, but we are pleased this first and necessary step has been taken.”*

Their measured praise reflects the fact that there are still many steps in the process before Bristol Bay is ultimately protected. The mine’s backers must respond to the EPA’s request for more information, and the 404(c) process includes additional rounds of public input before a final determination is made. And Pebble has made clear it intends to fight the EPA’s actions with all of the resources the company has available.

Though the fight’s not over, that doesn’t mean we didn’t stop to cheer the news. TU’s Tim Bristol summed it up best when he said: *“I’m going to crack a beer at happy hour today, and then get back to work.”*

You can read these stories and others in this week’s Bristol Bay in the News.

Shoren Brown

Executive Director, Bristol Bay United

Alaska Coverage

Our View: EPA makes right call on Pebble

EPA says no to Pebble, but the decision isn’t final

Anchorage Daily News

March 3, 2014

First, let’s be clear: the EPA is doing its job. Why have a Clean Water Act at all if not to protect a pristine natural watershed from potentially toxic industrial development? And let’s remember that the EPA initially undertook to assess the Pebble project because many concerned Alaskans asked it to do so. Further, if the agency determines a huge-scale mine is wrong for the watershed, the Pebble Partnership itself is better off knowing sooner than later so it stop investing in a project that isn’t going to happen... [click here to read more.](#)

EPA to protect Bristol Bay salmon fishery in move that could lead to Pebble mine veto

By Lisa Demer

Anchorage Daily News

February 28, 2014

Tribes and other Alaska Native groups in 2010 petitioned EPA to block the mine even before it applied for its main federal permit through the Clean Water Act.

Jason Metrokin, president of the Bristol Bay Native Corp., said Friday that EPA was taking a thoughtful approach to protect the region’s vital salmon.

“BBNC continues to support responsible developments in our region including mining. But the science has shown that the proposed Pebble mine presents unacceptable risks to the Bristol Bay salmon fishery,” Metrokin said.

The United Tribes of Bristol Bay said the EPA was simply fulfilling its trust responsibilities to Native people and subsistence... [click here to read more.](#)

EPA starts process that could restrict Pebble Mine

By Becky Bohrer

The Associated Press/in Juneau Empire

February 28, 2014

JUNEAU — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it is taking the first steps toward restricting or even prohibiting development of a massive gold-and-copper prospect near the headwaters of a premier sockeye salmon fishery in southwest Alaska — though no final decision has been made.

While the rarely used EPA process is underway, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cannot approve a permit for the proposed Pebble Mine project... [click here to read more.](#)

Pebble Opponents, Proponents React To EPA Decision

By Dave Bendinger

KDLG

February 28, 2014

That today’s announcement didn’t close the book on Pebble wasn’t lost on the mine’s opposition. Robin Samuelson, one of the tribal leaders who signed the 2010 request asking the EPA to intervene, says they are ready and able to keep up the fight:

"We've been in this battle for fourteen years. If it lasts another twenty, I'll be there," Samuelson said. "And if I'm gone, my grandchildren will be there. We'll never give up the fight."... [click here to read more/listen.](#)

EPA's Review of Pebble Deposit Under Clean Water Act Could Block Mine

By Matthew Smith

KTUU

February 28, 2014

ANCHORAGE - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking the first steps toward possibly restricting or even prohibiting development of a massive gold-and-copper prospect near the headwaters of a world-premier sockeye salmon fishery in southwest Alaska.

The EPA says it will use section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to assess the effects of mining the Pebble deposit. The agency will use the act to review "potential adverse environmental effects of discharges of dredged and fill material associated with mining the Pebble deposit."... [click here to read more/watch.](#)

Leaders, stakeholders react after EPA's Pebble Mine announcement

By Yereth Rosen and Krestia DeGeorge

The Alaska Dispatch

February 28, 2014

"This 404(c) process is not something -- and I want to stress this -- that the agency does very often. But the Bristol Bay fishery is an extraordinary resource, and it's worthy of out-of-the-ordinary agency actions to protect it," McCarthy said in the news conference.

EPA has launched 404(c) reviews 29 times in the past and followed through with final vetoes on wetlands-fill permits only 13 times, McCarthy said.

The unique circumstances in the Pebble Mine case -- a special environment producing nearly half of the world's wild sockeye salmon, a huge and low-grade ore deposit for which commercialization would require a massive operation and possibly North America's biggest open pit mine -- justify use of the Section 404(c) process, she said... [click here to read more.](#)

National/International Coverage

A Reprieve for Bristol Bay

Editorial

The New York Times

March 2, 2014

The Obama administration announced on Friday that it was putting the brakes on a massive gold and copper mine proposed for the headwaters of Alaska's Bristol Bay while it decides whether to prohibit it permanently. This sounds like the death knell for a project, known as the Pebble Mine, that by any measure is an environmental disaster waiting to happen. The mine would gravely threaten one of the richest salmon fisheries in the world and disrupt a delicate marine environment prized by conservationists, native tribes and commercial fishing interests alike... [click here to read more.](#)

Willoughby: It's fair for EPA to require Pebble Mine to prove itself

By Scott Willoughby

The Denver Post

March 2, 2014

Here's my favorite thing about the Environmental Protection Agency enacting a rarely used section of the Clean Water Act to potentially shut down the behemoth Pebble Mine project proposed for the headwaters of Alaska's Bristol Bay: The agency is stepping up to call the bully's bluff.

Ultimately, it's just that simple. All CEO Tom Collier and his Pebble Limited Partnership have to do is prove that excavating the largest open pit ever constructed in North America and creating countless tons of toxic waste in the name of gold, copper and molybdenum won't have a negative impact on the surrounding watershed considered one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet.

Now is that too much to ask?... [click here to read more.](#)

Editorial: Save Bristol Bay, stop the mine

The Seattle Times

March 4, 2014

This project is described as covering seven square miles, and needing waste disposal impoundments covering another 19 square miles.

The economic reach of the Bristol Bay fishery is extraordinary, with thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of economic impact in Washington and Oregon, all documented by independent research.

EPA's review is expected to take at least a year. Mounting evidence points to a wholly appropriate outcome. Stop the mine; protect the fishery... [click here to read more.](#)

EPA takes step toward restricting Pebble Mine project on Alaska's Bristol Bay

By Juliet Eilperin
The Washington Post
February 28, 2014

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday that it will examine whether to block a massive gold and copper mine proposed in Alaska — marking a major win for native Alaskan tribes, commercial fishing operations and environmentalists who have been seeking to kill the project... [click here to read more.](#)

EPA urges protection for Bristol Bay, putting new Alaska mine at risk

The Environmental Protection Agency finds the proposed Pebble Mine would have detrimental effect on Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed and salmon fisheries.

By Maria LaGanga
The Los Angeles Times
February 28, 2014

Conservation, fishing and Alaska Native groups hailed the decision, which could potentially stop Pebble Mine. They say the EPA's action is a victory for the crucial ecosystem, for Natives who depend on the salmon fishery for survival, and for the commercial and recreational fishing industries.

Chris Wood, president of Trout Unlimited, said in a written statement that "it is difficult to overstate the significance" of the EPA announcement. "If the EPA follows the science and follows through on this, it will rank as one of the most significant conservation achievements of the past 50 years."... [click here to read more.](#)

ALSO: [See follow-up story](#), with round-up of comments from both mine opponents and proponents.

EPA Takes First Step to Restrict Pebble Mine Project in Alaska

Alaska Mine Could Also Be One of World's Largest Copper Sources
By Alicia Mundy
The Wall Street Journal
February 28, 2014

The Environmental Protection Agency took the first step Friday to restrict, if not prohibit, the development of Pebble Mine, a proposed open-pit copper and gold mine in Alaska that could be one of the world's largest copper sources. The EPA said the project poses a serious risk to the salmon fisheries and native tribes in the Bristol Bay area. Administrator Gina McCarthy, in a media call, said the agency is turning to a little-used authority under the Clean Water Act to protect the fisheries, which produce about half the world's wild sockeye salmon... [click here to read more.](#)

EPA moves to block mammoth Bristol Bay mine

By Joel Connelly
The Seattle Post-Intelligencer
February 28, 2014

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in an action cheered by Seattle-area fisheries, has moved to block a giant open pit mine and tailings dam proposed near the headwaters of two rivers vital to the sockeye and Chinook salmon fishery of Alaska's Bristol Bay.

"This process (mine) would threaten half the world's sockeye salmon catch: A mine is not more important than fishing jobs," said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., an outspoken opponent of the proposed Pebble Mine... [click here to read more.](#)

US moves against Alaska gold and copper mine to protect salmon fishery

By Suzanne Goldenberg
The Guardian
February 28, 2014

The federal government made a rare intervention to block a gold and copper mine in Alaska on Friday, saying it was compelled to protect the world's biggest salmon fishery.

The move — a victory for a three-year campaign by salmon fishermen, native tribes and environmental groups — did not amount to an immediate veto on the Bristol Bay mining project... [click here to read more.](#)

EPA Tells Miners to Keep Out of Alaska's Bristol Bay—and They Aren't Buying It

By Brad Wieners
Bloomberg Businessweek

February 28, 2014

Eclipsed by the debate over the Keystone XL pipeline, the battle over the fate of Alaska's Bristol Bay has been one of the most intense between industry and ecologists of the new century. Today the Environmental Protection Agency appeared to tip the scales in favor of the native Alaskans and environmentalists who had petitioned the agency to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to block a big mine proposed near the bay's watershed. Formally, the EPA has initiated a process (under section 404c (PDF) of the act) that could lead to restrictions—or even a veto—on any future mining at the site. For the time being, neither a court nor the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may issue a permit for a mine, and given the findings in its January assessment of the watershed (PDF), it's difficult to imagine the EPA saying anything but no... [click here to read more.](#)

The EPA Plays Offense

Is the Pebble Mine dead? Not quite.

By Abe Streep

Outside Magazine

February 28, 2014

All of this pretty much exactly echoed what Collier told Bloomberg Businessweek today, so it's probably a fair assumption that Pebble's response strategy is a vigorous offense. When I asked TU's Bristol about Collier, he said, "The guy has no experience in the state. It's full-on insider DC politics." Was any celebration in order? "I'm going to crack a beer at happy hour today," he said "and then get back to work."... [click here to read more.](#)

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